



## SWARC NEWS

### Notes from K7RLH

Welcome to my second newsletter as your SWARC President. I have sent out several emails with updates and I will continue to do so rather than only touching base once a month via this document.

I think those that attended our August meeting, in person, probably were ready to go home halfway through Nick Petro's SKYWARN presentation (it lasted almost two hours). However, he added a lot of meteorological material that I found interesting personally. I will admit to 'sore butt' disease after sitting for that long.

Today, August 7th, we conducted the first of hopefully many test sessions at the AL Post in Bldg 2. I think everyone is aware that SWARC and AL Post 116 are co-sponsors of the CenCar VE Team. We have free use of the Bldg 2 location for testing that will occur on the first Saturday of each month unless something arises to necessitate a deviation. I just spoke with our Laurel Regional Coordinator and our exam paperwork was deemed 'perfect' due to efforts of all present.

I want to encourage all of you to do two things: Go to [fivecountyhrc.org](http://fivecountyhrc.org) and register for news of interest to new/old hams, and, go to [dxengineering.com](http://dxengineering.com) and sign up for their 'On All Bands' email newsletters, which most often have

topics of interest to hams of all experience levels.

When you get down to ARRL news, check out the impressive young lady who has been chosen *Amateur Radio Newsline* Young Ham of Year 2021.

Look for other info in the body of the newsletter.

SWARC de K7RLH

## Notes from KB4NC

We had a great Skywarn training presentation by Nick Petro who is the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Raleigh. He is also a ham radio operator with the call sign WX3H -- WX because he is a meteorologist; 3 because he is originally from Pennsylvania, and H because he lives in Hurricane territory!

He has been heavily involved in Skywarn for more than 20 years and was interested in amateur radio before he had an interest in the weather. I have attached a copy of the spotter guide that he distributed. He also provided a list of useful websites and continuing education. (See last pages of newsletter)

In other news, K7RLH Richard has tasked me to review the Retevis Antenna Analyzer Mini 1300 and make a presentation at a future meeting. Stay tuned! (pun intended)

73's,  
Manny KB4NC

## SWARC 4 August 2021 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Richard Hall, K7RLH, who also led the Pledge of Allegiance in Bernie's absence.

We had good reasonably good representation with nine members and two

guests including:

Richard Hall (K7RLH), Brian Knox (KK4BK), Bill Blomgren (KK4QDZ), Al Crawford (WA4TCJ), Mike Gaither (K4MWG), Manny Garcia (KB4NC), Federico LLuberes (KK4HAQ), Steve Suzanne (WB4SMS) and new member, Steve Rhudy (KY4SLR).

A special warm welcome to visitors Kathy Tucker (KO4FSQ) and our presenter, Nick Petro (WX3H).

### **Financial Report:**

Christy reported a July starting balance of \$1,512.91, addition of \$565.00 from dues, donations and raffle sales, and an ending balance of \$2,075.91.

### **Old Business:**

None.

### **New Business:**

The main portion of the meeting was the SKYWARN initial/refreshers training presented by Nick Petro, WX3H, from the Raleigh NWS office. While his presentation was lengthy, it was informative and we should be well prepared for the remainder of the hurricane season as well as the upcoming colder weather timeframes.

Attendees were happy to hear that Kenny Southern (KJ4CVK) is calling some nets as he feels like it, so our backups need to be alert to call a net if Kenny isn't up to it. He reports that he will be getting his prosthesis in the next week or two and then will have the second surgery to 'even' up 'Stiffy' with 'Stumpy' as he calls them. We all wish Kenny the best and look forward to hearing him on the air. Remember Gary Plante, KO4LQX, who is undergoing treatments for a cancerous tumor that was attached to his larynx. He will have several treatments before the doctors finalize on their plans for renewing his health so keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Club Raffle – Richard reminded everyone to buy tickets for the December drawing. Tickets are only \$5 so get yours soon.

Richard concluded the meeting at 9:02 pm.

Richard Hall - President and Acting Secretary (Andy was on vacation)

# MEMBERSHIP

Just a reminder that it is that time again to pay membership dues.

\$30 for individual and \$5 for each family member.

You can bring a check or cash to the next meeting or mail them to the club PO box and Christy will let me know she has received them so I can update the list. If you mail them, give me a heads up so I can mark it as pending on the roster.

Makes checks payable to South Wake ARC.

If you are going to mail it, send it to South Wake ARC – PO Box 1565 – Fuquay Varina, NC 27526

I will be developing an online form so new members can fill out the application online and mail or bring a check to a meeting.

I will be reaching out to all members here soon to make sure I have the latest contact information, addresses, etc so I can make sure the membership list reflects current information.

Thanks,

Gary Plante

KO4LQX

# NET REPORT

Hi to the SWARC Group

We had three individuals who can be referred to as net check in champs, that is Bill, KK4QDZ, Richard, K7RLH and Gary, KO4LQX.

Look at those counts! Notice that we are only showing folks who have checked in more than once? Why did we do that?! Because there were 41 recorded check-ins that came just once.

See you on the net.

net date	Callsign count	Expr1000	NetCheckins
7/1/2021	15	KK4QDZ	21
7/3/2021	24	K7RLH	17
7/4/2021	13	KO4LQX	16
7/5/2021	16	WA4TCJ	14
7/6/2021	16	KN4OEY	13
7/10/2021	12	KJ4QNW	13
7/11/2021	9	KB4NC	12
7/12/2021	15	KG4JOK	12
7/13/2021	16	N4BAJ	12
7/15/2021	10	KO4MSN	11
7/17/2021	13	KO4FUD	10
7/18/2021	15	KD7AAG	10
7/19/2021	13	KK4BK	9
7/21/2021	12	WB4UFO	7
7/22/2021	16	N4BNC	6
7/24/2021	16	K9RDU	6

7/25/2021	1	KM4IJK	6
7/26/2021	18	KT4JR	5
7/27/2021	18	N4MRW	5
7/28/2021	16	KG4OST	5
7/29/2021	12	KO4LZZ	5
7/31/2021	14	KI0PQ	4
		WA3JJG	4
		KO4DHJ	4
		N4NCK	4
		KE4RUN	4
		KK4VUS	3
		KM4JLA	3
		KE4QBW	3
		KO4SAV	3
		NY4NC	3
		KJ4CVK	3
		KI4RAN	2
		W4KXP	2
		W1JCA	2
		KK4BVU	2
		N1GE	2
		K2OLT	2
		KM4TC	2
		KI4YII	2
		K4WCA	2
		KY4SLR	2
		KO4IHM	2

While we are on the topic of nets, here is the plan for Net Controls while Kenny is recuperating from his first (and soon to be second) surgery.

- K7RLH and N4BAJ are calling the Tuesday and Thursday Trivia Nets
- Saturday and Sunday evenings will be called by KT4JR & K7RLH
- KB4NC will call Monday evenings
- KA0GMY will call Tuesday evenings (backup is KJ4CVK and K7RLH)
- KJ4CVK to pick up Thursday evenings
- Wednesday evening nets will continue to be called by board members
- Fridays will continue to be called by NC4MP
- And we need backups – JUST BECAUSE.

And, here are some thoughts about nets and net controllers.

- Net controls should be professional; make sure you ask for corrections to call signs and interact with those calling in
- Net controls don't own a net; they are the temporary custodian of same and should respect the privilege they have to call a net
- Net controls should encourage call-ins to use full call sign and spell it out phonetically because that will save time in the long run besides giving the NC more time to copy everyone down
- Members should be careful not to disparage other members, clubs, TV stations and other entities—nothing political or religious should be discussed regardless of your personal opinion/feelings



# Public Service

*Check the RARS web site often for Public Service opportunities.*

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **President**

Richard Hall--K7RLH

### **Vice President**

Manny Garcia--KB4NC

### **Secretary**

Andy McDaniel – KN4JJU

### **Treasurer**

Christy Fernandini - KJ4AEO

### **Member-At-Large**

Al Crawford – WA4TCJ

### **Member-At-Large**

Bernie Jones – N4BAJ

### **Member-At-Large**

Mike Gaither –

K4MWG

### **Member-At-Large**

Brian Knox--KK4BK

### **Membership Chair**

Gary Plante--KO4LQX

## **Appointed Positions**

### **NET MANAGER**

Kenny Souther-KJ4CVK

### **Special Events Director**

Gino Fernandini –KI4YXO

### **Public Service Director**

David Krum – NW3U

# SWARC Mission Statement

South Wake ARC's primary purpose is to further the Amateur Radio Service through programs, activities, and education, in order to promote the radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency of our members. Further, it shall be our purpose to support the welfare of our community through public service including radio communications for emergency situations and public events, and through providing information, training, and assistance to individuals or organizations with an interest in the Amateur Radio Service.

**LINKS** (if you have other links you want added then send them to me)

**PRN**

***A Wide Area Digital Amateur Radio Network***

[www.ncprn.net](http://www.ncprn.net)

***GigaParts***

[www.gigaparts.com](http://www.gigaparts.com)

**QRZ**

[www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com)

***Ham Radio Outlet HRO***

[www.hamradio.com](http://www.hamradio.com)

***Raleigh Amateur Radio Society RARS***

[www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org)

***Johnson Amateur Radio Society JARS***

[www.jars..net](http://www.jars..net)

***South Wake Amateur Radio Club SWARC***

[www.southwakearc.com](http://www.southwakearc.com)

## **ATTENTION**

Our club is like other clubs, we have a mixture of memberships. We have everything from young pre-teen members to those who are "Advanced Teens". The point is - make sure to check up on our older members occasionally to see if they could use any help. Someday you may be in their exact situation.

Question of the month WHO HAVE YOU HELPED THIS MONTH?

## **ARRL News**

### **ARRL Now Provides Free RF Exposure Calculator**

The FCC has adopted guidelines and procedures for evaluating environmental effects of RF emissions. The new guidelines incorporate two tiers of exposure limits based on whether exposure occurs in an occupational or "controlled" situation, or whether the general population is exposed or exposure is in an "uncontrolled" situation.

Under the new FCC rules, some amateurs need to perform routine



station evaluations to ensure that their stations comply with the RF exposure rules. This can be as simple as running an online calculator to determine the minimum safe distance between any part of your antenna and areas where people might be exposed to RF energy from your station. Although amateurs can make measurements of their stations, evaluations can also be done by calculation.

To make this easy for amateurs, ARRL now provides an [RF exposure calculator](#) on its RF Exposure page. To use the calculator, enter your transmit peak-envelope power (PEP) and operating mode, and answer the questions about the maximum amount of time you might be transmitting. The calculator will give you the minimum distance people must be from your antenna and human exposure.

You can print the results and keep them in your station records. There is no requirement to send your results to the FCC.

## *Faith Hannah Lea, KD3Z, is Amateur Radio Newsline 2021 Young Ham of the Year*

ARRL member Faith Hannah Lea, KD3Z, of Palm Coast, Florida, has been selected as the 2021 Bill Pasternak WA6ITF Memorial [Amateur Radio Newsline](#) Young Ham of the Year. Faith Hannah comes from an all-ham family. She is the daughter of James Lea, WX4TV, and Michelle Lea, N8ZQZ. Her brother and two sisters are also hams. She credited her parents with being the biggest influences in her entry into amateur radio at the age of 10 in 2014. Just 18 months after being licensed, Faith



Hannah was invited to join the 2016 Dave Kalter Memorial Youth DX team, which operated from the Saba station of Jeff Jolie, as PJ6/NM1Y.

"And that's when I realized especially that DXing is amazing, because I absolutely love those huge pileups and getting to talk to all of those different people," she explained.

Among her PJ6 achievements was a satellite contact that broke the SO-50 distance world record. Her account of the event appeared in the March/April 2017 issue of *The AMSAT Journal*.

In August 2018, Faith Hannah took part in the week-long Youngsters on the Air (YOTA) camp in

Johannesburg, South Africa, where she participated in kit building, antenna projects, satellite operation, and a high-altitude balloon launch. An article about her experiences in South Africa appeared in *CQ Magazine*.

On the way to South Africa, Faith Hannah and her father had a 22-hour layover in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates. While there, they were invited by the Emirates Amateur Radio Society to visit and operate A62A and A60YOZ.

In December 2018, Faith Hannah, her younger sister, Hope, ND2L, and their father organized a 36-hour mini DXpedition to the Dry Tortugas in the Gulf of Mexico, off the southwest coast of Florida, where they operated as N4T. The family team put 1,970 HF contacts and 100 satellite contacts into the log. CQ published Faith Hannah's account of the N4T operation, and she and Hope shared the April 2019 cover of the magazine.

Faith Hannah earned an associate degree from Daytona State College at age 15 and currently attends Stetson University in Deland, Florida, where she is a member of the junior class. She maintains a 4.0 grade point average while working toward two separate bachelor's degrees -- in molecular and cellular biology and business administration. She is considering two possible career tracks -- medicine or law, or possibly both.

---

## Just Ahead in Radiosport

- August 6 -- QRP Fox Hunt (CW)
- August 6 -- NCCC RTTY Sprint
- August 6 -- NCCC Sprint CW
- August 6 -- K1USN Slow Speed Test (CW -- 20 WPM maximum)
- August 7 -- European HF Championship (CW, phone)
- August 7 -- Two-Meter Classic Sprint (CW, phone)



- August 7 -- FISTS Saturday Sprint (CW)
- **August 7 - 8 -- North American QSO Party, CW**
- **August 7 - 8 -- ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest (CW, phone, digital)**
- August 7 - 8 -- Batavia FT8 Contest
- August 7 - 8 -- 10-10 International Summer Contest, SSB
- August 7 - 8 -- SKCC Weekend Sprintathon (CW)
- August 9 -- 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint (CW, phone)
- August 11 -- NAQCC CW Sprint
- August 11 -- VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest
- August 11 - 13 -- MMonVHF 144 MHz Meteorscatter Sprint (CW, phone, digital)

## Conventions

Some conventions and hamfests may have been canceled or postponed due to the coronavirus

pandemic. Check the [calendar of canceled events](#) on the ARRL website.

- August 7 -- [ARRL Iowa State Convention](#) (Cedar Valley ARC Techfest), Central City, Iowa
- August 14 - 15 -- [QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo \(online\)](#)
- August 21 - 22 -- [ARRL Southeastern Division Convention](#) (Huntsville Hamfest), Huntsville, Alabama
- August 27 - 29 -- [ARRL West Virginia State Convention](#), Sutton, West Virginia
- September 3 - 5 -- [ARRL North Carolina Section Convention](#) (Shelby Hamfest), Shelby, North Carolina
- September 10 - 11 -- [ARRL Illinois Section Convention](#) (2021 W9DXCC Convention), Naperville, Illinois
- September 10 - 12 -- [ARRL New England Division Convention](#) (Northeast HamXposition), Marlborough, Massachusetts
- September 12 -- [ARRL Southern New Jersey Section Convention](#) and Hamfest, Mullica Hill, New Jersey
- September 25 -- [ARRL Dakota Division Convention](#) (RRRA Hamfest), West Fargo, North Dakota

**Upcoming Contest** (<https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>)





## National Weather Service Raleigh, NC SKYWARN Spotter Guide



**Spotter ID numbers are no longer provided by NWS Raleigh, and  
are NOT required to report severe weather to the NWS Raleigh!**

WX 317

To register your class attendance (either in-person or for online training), and to be added to the NWS Raleigh database of SKYWARN spotters, please fill out the following online registration form:

<http://www.weather.gov/rah/RaleighSkywarnRegistration>

If you experience any trouble with the above form, please send an email message to [Nicholas.Petro@noaa.gov](mailto:Nicholas.Petro@noaa.gov)

### **Call the NWS when you observe any of the following:**

<b>Tornadoes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What damage did you observe?</li><li>• How long was it on the ground?</li><li>• When did it start and end?</li></ul>	<b>Wall Clouds and Funnel Clouds</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report if clouds are rotating and how long they have existed.</li><li>• Watch for organization, persistence and rotation.</li></ul>
<b>Flash Flooding</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report flooded roadways, rivers and streams, giving approximate water depth.</li><li>• Are the flood waters standing or flowing?</li><li>• Is the flooding rising, staying steady or falling?</li><li>• Are cars stalled in flood waters? Any damage from the flooding or mud slides?</li></ul>	<b>Winter Weather</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report any occurrence of freezing rain, ice accumulation and damage.</li><li>• Report precipitation type change-overs, and when they occurred</li><li>• At the end of the event, report storm total snow or ice accumulation.</li></ul>
<b>Severe Thunderstorm Straight-line wind</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report any wind damage (damage to structures, trees power poles/lines down, etc).</li><li>• If possible, report estimated or measured wind speed.</li><li>• Details to submit for tree damage:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ What is the height and diameter of the branch, limb or tree that was broken or blown down?</li><li>○ Was the tree healthy or decayed?</li><li>○ What type of tree was damaged, e.g., hardwood or softwood?</li></ul></li><li>• Details to submit for damage to structures.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Is the damage to a well-built structure or a weak outbuilding?</li><li>○ What is the main building material for the structure: wood, brick, metal, concrete, etc.?</li><li>○ If the structure is a mobile home, was it anchored down?</li></ul></li></ul>	<b>Hail</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At first, report any size hail</li><li>• At the end of the event, report the size of the largest stone and any damage.</li><li>• To estimate size, compare hail to well-known objects such as coins or balls, but not to marbles, or measure the hail with a ruler</li></ul> <b>Tropical Storms or Hurricanes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• During Storm:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Funnel Clouds and Tornadoes</li><li>○ Wind gusts over 50 mph</li><li>○ Wind damage</li><li>○ Flooding</li></ul></li><li>• End of Storm:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Lowest pressure</li><li>○ Rainfall total</li><li>○ Highest wind gust</li><li>○ Damage / Flooding</li></ul></li></ul>



### **Methods of reporting severe weather to the NWS Raleigh:**

- NWS Raleigh severe weather hotline: **919-326-1040** (please note that the old 800 number is being phased out)
- Use our web-based reporting form available via <http://www.weather.gov/rah/submityourweatherreport>  
Be sure to bookmark this link to the desktop of your PC or smartphone!
- *A picture is worth a thousand words!* Please email storm photos to: [rah.reports@noaa.gov](mailto:rah.reports@noaa.gov)
- Social Media: Tweet storm reports and photos to @NWSRaleigh. Post storm reports and photos on our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/NWSRaleigh](http://www.facebook.com/NWSRaleigh).
- For amateur radio operators in the Triangle region and Coastal Plain: Central Carolina SKYWARN net on the 146.88 repeater, and more info available on the the Central Carolina SKYWARN Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/CentralCarolinaSKYWARN>
- For amateur radio operators in the Triad region: Triad SKYWARN on the 147.255 mhz K4ITL Asheboro repeater (t82.5), and more info available at <http://triadskywarn.blogspot.com>

### **Spotters should use the following guidelines when reporting:**

- Remain calm, speak clearly, and do not exaggerate the facts.
- If you are unsure of what you are seeing, make your report, but also express your uncertainty.
- Immediate, real-time reports are most helpful for warning operations, but delayed reports are also important, even days after an event.
- Don't assume that someone else already reported it. Don't report something you didn't see yourself.
- Don't send in fake or false reports – that's illegal, and spotters who send us fake reports will be referred to law enforcement!
- Don't assume that your report will become a Local Storm Report, or will result in a warning!
- Don't forget that we need your snow and ice reports during and after winter weather events.

### **Your report should contain the following information:**

- WHO you are: trained spotter...give your name and best phone number to reach you back.
- WHAT you have witnessed: the specific weather event
- WHEN the event occurred: NOT when you make your report
- WHERE the event occurred...which may not necessarily be your present location. Use well known roads or landmarks when describing the location.

### **When reporting hail size, it is useful to reference common objects, such as:**

- |                                   |                      |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| • Pea 1/4"                        | • Golf Ball 1 3/4"   |
| • Penny 3/4"                      | • Lime 2"            |
| • Nickel 7/8"                     | • Tennis Ball 2 1/2" |
| • Quarter 1"                      | • Baseball 2 3/4"    |
| • Half Dollar 1 1/4"              | • Softball 4"        |
| • Walnut or Ping-Pong Ball 1 1/2" |                      |

### **Useful Web Sites and Continuing SKYWARN Education:**

- NWS Raleigh SKYWARN page: <http://www.weather.gov/rah/skywarn>
- Spotter Guide: [https://www.weather.gov/media/owlie/SGJune6-11\(1\).pdf](https://www.weather.gov/media/owlie/SGJune6-11(1).pdf)
- COMET MedEd SKYWARN Training: [https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training\\_course.php?id=23](https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_course.php?id=23)
- NWS Raleigh Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NWSRaleigh>
- NWS Raleigh Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NWSRaleigh/>
- Rainfall reporting program: <http://www.cocorahs.org>
- Spotter Network: <https://www.spotternetwork.org>

### **SKYWARN Training Certificate:**

- If you would like to obtain a certificate for attending SKYWARN training, you can download and customize one for yourself via the following link:
  - o [http://www.weather.gov/media/rah/skywarn/RAH\\_SKYWARN\\_Certificate.pdf](http://www.weather.gov/media/rah/skywarn/RAH_SKYWARN_Certificate.pdf)
  - o The password is: skywarn

